GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2738
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2003
TASK FORCE ON QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS
RADHA MOHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a task force to gauge the quality and the safety norms of the indigenously produced and the imported foodstuffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): No such task force is proposed to be set up. However, in pursuance of the recommendations of the 23rd meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council (16th July, 2003), the Central Government has constituted a Working Group on Food Safety with the following terms of reference:

i) To identify various problems that the consumers face relating to the safety and the quality of various food products produced/manufactured/imported and made available in the market.

ii) To suggest preventive as well as remedial measures.

Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards is the Chairman of the Working Group and other members are from concerned Government Departments, scientific institutions, industry associations and NGOs. The Member Secretary of the Group is Director (Food & Agriculture), Bureau of Indian Standards.

(c) : No specific time limit has been prescribed for submission of its report by the Working Group.